

comes when we open our hearts to Your love. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HANCOCK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HANCOCK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend we were saddened to learn of the death of one of our colleague, BILL EMERSON, from the great State of Missouri. Many of the Members know that BILL had been fighting a battle with cancer over the last 10 months. BILL lost that battle over the weekend.

BILL served here in Congress for almost 16 years, having first started in 1954 as a page here in the House, then going on to work for various Members as a staffer here on Capitol Hill. He served on the Committee on Agriculture, he served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and he had a career-long interest in the issue of hunger, serving as the ranking minority member on the Select Committee on Hunger, and then going on to be the cochairman of the Hunger Task Force here in the Congress. His interest in hunger was certainly for those in a domestic purpose here in our country and also around the world.

I share with all of our Members our grief in losing our dear friend BILL. We send our condolences to Jo Ann and BILL's four children, and ask them to remember that BILL EMERSON was our friend, our colleague, and someone we dearly loved.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, BILL EMERSON

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend BILL EMERSON, who died Saturday night at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

BILL was a truly outstanding legislator who was a great credit to Missouri and to our Nation. He made public

service his life. He reflected all that is good in the political arena. Although he was of one political party and I of another, this fact never interfered with our friendship.

He stood by his principles and fought hard, but political differences never became personal with him.

He was a person filled with honor, one whose word was good. He reflected the people in his district. He was so proud of Missouri. He was also so very proud of his alma mater, Westminster College in Fulton, MO.

The country lost an excellent Congressman, Missouri lost an excellent Representative, and I lost a warm friend.

I know that all of my colleagues join me in extending condolences to his wife, Jo Ann, and to his daughters Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katharine.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. HANCOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, one minute to express my personal feelings concerning the passing of our colleague, the Honorable BILL EMERSON from Missouri, is very difficult.

BILL EMERSON was a good friend, a trusted confidant, and a great American. He was dedicated to his maker, his family, and to the institution of the U.S. Congress where he served for almost 6 years.

BILL exemplified the qualities of honor and integrity that some would say is now lacking in public elected officials. BILL accepted people as they are and overlooked the frailties of human nature. This is why he will be sorely missed as a voice of reasonable accommodation.

All of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with BILL EMERSON will remember his positive attitude.

My sincerest regrets and sympathy to Jo Ann Emerson and all his family. They will be remembered in our prayers.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. POSHARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I have known BILL EMERSON for nearly 20 years. I worked with BILL closely for the past 12 years. He was one of the most solid people that I know. He was common sense, he was decency. He exemplified the principle of integrity in this body and in his life as much as anyone I have ever known.

Some years ago, BILL and I shared a problem between our districts. We needed to keep an old bridge open to Chester, IL, over the troubled waters of

the Mississippi River. We worked together. The bridge is still open today, still serving the basic needs of the people of our districts.

The old bridge symbolizes for me in many ways the life of BILL EMERSON. BILL was always reaching out, always trying to help, always building bridges over troubled waters somewhere in his life. I do not know that BILL ever really demanded a political solution. He was too interested in practical solutions to help his people and to help this country. I will forever be grateful for his true sense of bipartisanship.

I offer my condolences to his family on this day. We will miss BILL a great deal in this body.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute my dear friend, BILL EMERSON. BILL EMERSON represented honesty, decency and integrity in this body in a very bipartisan way. Through my many conversations with BILL EMERSON, I learned to understand that BILL had his priorities in order. BILL loved this institution and he loved his country. But above all else, BILL loved his God, and he loved his family. I thank God for the opportunity to have served with BILL EMERSON in this body for the past 18 months. Because of the opportunity to serve with BILL EMERSON, those of us who knew BILL will be better Members of this body. But above all else, we will be better citizens.

REMEMBERING BILL EMERSON

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I came down here with a text on one of the many issues before this country. I am putting that text away, because I too want to reflect upon BILL EMERSON and publicly express my deep sympathy to his family.

I served on the Agriculture Committee with BILL EMERSON for the last two sessions. He was without question a tough Republican and we banged heads. Sometimes we banged heads hard. But BILL EMERSON was a man with a very big heart. He has left me with three impressions that I will particularly remember:

The first, he was a man of strong faith. I remember vividly when he presided over the National Prayer Breakfast in 1993, my first year in Congress.

Second, he was a man that approached the duties of a legislator with professionalism. When we would bang heads, we would walk out of committee, and that would be the end of it. We were each trying to do the best we could, we understood that about each other, and our policy differences never

came between our friendship. We have too little of that in this Chamber. I hope we remember the example of BILL EMERSON and do a better job, each of us, going forward in the tough debates that are ahead.

Third, he was a man of incredible courage. We all watched as he maintained his perfect voting record this year in a state of obviously disintegrating health. It was terrible to watch someone we love like BILL grow sick and obviously failing right in front of us. But he hung in there and there was never any talk of retreat or surrender from BILL EMERSON. He was going to beat this cancer and he was going to be reelected. He was not done serving the people of Missouri. That courage and never, ever stopping, looking forward, and doing his best is something that I will never forget from my friend BILL.

Rest in peace, old buddy.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF BILL EMERSON

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to mourn the passing of our friend and colleague, BILL EMERSON. Being a newcomer to the Congress, I reflected on the words of our colleague from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, on bipartisanship and actions speak louder than words. So it has been on many occasions when I would see both Mr. SKELTON and Mr. EMERSON sharing a ride across the river to work. In our Cloakroom, there is a picture of a younger Mr. EMERSON and our colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, when they served as pages in this institution, helping to bear the stretcher of a wounded Member in a terrible episode in our Nation's history. So, yes, this is a time of remembrance. It is also a time for true bipartisanship.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that in the middle of some troubled times, one political adversary gave his partisan foe some very good advice. It was Hubert Humphrey who told President Richard Nixon to lay out all the facts, and to come clean on certain issues. I daresay, had Mr. Nixon followed Mr. Humphrey's advice, a lot of the problems we faced in this country would have been eased.

In that spirit, Mr. Speaker, without venom or vitriol, in the spirit of true bipartisanship, I would call on this President to release the pertinent documents needed to bring the investigations to a resolute and clear conclusion, so that we may move forward in a bipartisan fashion to clear up questions and to work in a constructive manner in this body.

IN MEMORY OF BILL EMERSON

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my friend died on Saturday.

BILL EMERSON and I knew each other for many years, traveled together, supported one another in our endeavors in Congress—especially in humanitarian work.

We served the Congressional Hunger Center as cochairmen, and BILL's support during my fast—and during the startup of this nonprofit organization—made a very real, very personal difference to me.

We got to know each other's families, and my family already feel the loss of our good friend. And we all extend our deepest sympathy to his family: to BILL's mother, Marie Hahn; to BILL's wife, Jo Ann; and to their daughters—Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katherine.

In the Washington Post this weekend, David Broder wrote that "the companionship that once crossed party lines in Congress * * * has been replaced by a tone of unrelenting enmity." That was never true with BILL EMERSON. He nurtured his relationships with both Democrats and Republicans alike.

Mr. Broder was right in lamenting a political climate that too often is hostile. "It is the personal relationships that determine how much the group will get done," he said—and he is right. But people like BILL EMERSON showed us all that we can work together to make a difference for the people who send us to Washington—and especially for children.

My friend was a decent, wonderful man. He will be missed by many of us, and I will never forget him.

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WE DO NOT REALIZE THE TRUE WORTH OF A GREAT MAN UNTIL HE IS GONE

(Mr. TALENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, we do not realize the true worth of a great man until he is gone. The networks of which he is a part, the man of which he is the hub, slip and shake and tremble. We all feel the insecurity of things if even the strongest among us can be so quickly taken from us. Yet we all realize the impact for good that a good man can have.

So it is, Mr. Speaker, with our dear colleague, BILL EMERSON. Much will be said of BILL in the coming days. I wish to say this now. He was my friend, faithful and just and charitable to me. He served his country. He loved his family. He is now most certainly with his Savior, and I will miss him more than I can say.

AMERICA WILL MISS BILL EMERSON, I MOST OF ALL

(Mr. KANJORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to my oldest and dearest friend, BILL EMERSON. BILL and I knew each other for 43 years. We met in this Chamber as 15-year-olds when both of us were young. BILL was an exceptional young man, very bright, very focused and very dedicated. As a matter of fact, I used to think of him as an American Churchill or a Midwestern Lincoln: a person of great potential ready to be molded, with a big heart and an understanding love for America and what this great democracy is all about. You know, a lot of my friends on both sides of the aisle will miss BILL because he was truly bipartisan in most everything he ever did.

A lot of us know him and know him in different ways, but one does not know BILL EMERSON unless one knows he was not really BILL EMERSON. When I first met him, he struck out his hand and he introduced himself as Norville William Emerson of Missouri. Being a young man from Pennsylvania, I had never heard of a Norville William Emerson from Missouri before, particularly one who talked with a Midwestern twang and almost had hayseed in his hair. But clearly the light and brightness of his mind reflected through his eyes, and he and I became the dearest of friends, roommates for 2 years and fellow pages. And it did not stop there. We spent time together. He visited my home and I visited his, and our families became the closest of friends from my childhood days. We went on to colleges; we shared the hopes of young men and the witness of the great sacraments in marriage. And as we went on through life, we gave advice and thoughts to one another and always remained friends.

We even shared the history of the 90th anniversary of Gettysburg together. I drove through the battlefield yesterday. That is 43 years ago that we stood up there, and I remember BILL well, telling me about his understanding of this great Civil War, this great battle that preserved democracy for America and individual rights for every American then and unborn into the future. He had such a fundamental understanding of it that truly I thought that he could be the next Lincoln coming along.

Well, BILL and I went through life together and shared all those years between then and 1980. He and I ran in 1980 for the House. He was a better politician than I. He got elected, I did not. But we remained close friends and in 1984 I had the good fortune of winning my seat, and we joined each other again after a period of 40 years of having known each other as very close friends.

In this House we tried with other Members, Mickey Leland being one, to form an organization uniting Members across the aisle. We tried to put Republicans and Democrats together as